AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

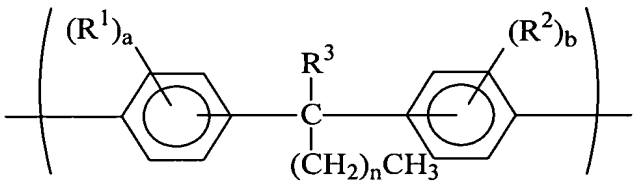
Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

1. – 36. (Canceled)

37. (New) An electrophotographic photoconductor comprising:

an electroconductive support and

a photoconductive layer which is formed on said electroconductive support and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein said resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

38. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 37, wherein said photoconductive layer further comprises a charge generation material and a charge transport material.

39. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 37, wherein said photoconductive layer further comprises a filler.

40. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 39, wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, tin oxide, zinc oxide, zirconium oxide, indium oxide, silicon nitride, calcium oxide, barium sulfate, silica, colloidal silica, alumina, carbon black, fluorine-containing resin powder, polysiloxane resin powder, polyethylene resin powder, and graft copolymer with a core/shell structure.

41. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 37, wherein a contact angle which pure water makes with a surface of said photoconductive layer is in a range of 85 to 140°.

42. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 41, wherein said contact angle is in a range of 85 to 140° after said surface of said photoconductive layer is abraded by 1 ± 0.3 μm.

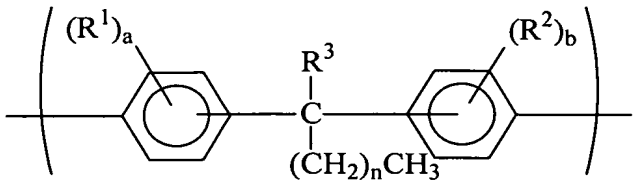
43. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 37, wherein a sliding angle at which pure water starts sliding down a surface of said photoconductive layer is in a range of 5 to 65°.

44. (New) An electrophotographic photoconductor comprising:

an electroconductive support,

a photoconductive layer formed thereon, and

a protective layer which is formed on said photoconductive layer and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein said resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

45. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 44, wherein said protective layer further comprises a filler.

46. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 44, wherein a contact angle which pure water makes with a surface of said protective layer is in a range of 85 to 140°.

47. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 46, wherein said contact angle is in a range of 85 to 140° after said surface of said protective layer is abraded by 1 ± 0 .3 μm.

48. (New) The photoconductor as claimed in claim 44, wherein a sliding angle at which pure water starts sliding down a surface of said protective layer is in a range of 5 to 65°.

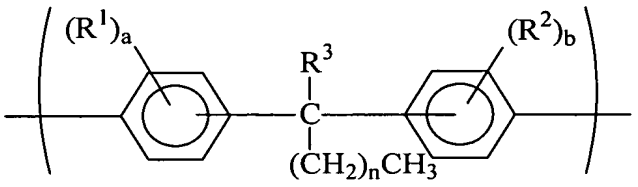
49. (New) An electrophotographic image forming method comprising the steps of:

charging surface of a an electrophotographic photoconductor exposing said charged photoconductor to a light image to form a latent electrostatic image on said photoconductor,

developing said latent electrostatic image to a visible image, and

transferring said visible image formed on said photoconductor to an image receiving member,

wherein said electrophotographic photoconductor comprises an electroconductive support and a photoconductive layer which is formed on said electroconductive support and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein said resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

50. (New) The electrophotographic image forming method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said step of exposing said photoconductor to said light image employs a light source with a beam spot diameter of 10 to 30 μm.

51. (New) The electrophotographic image forming method as claimed in claim 50, wherein said light source is a semiconductor laser beam or a light emitting diode with wavelengths of 400 to 450 nm.

52. (New) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

an electrophotographic photoconductor,

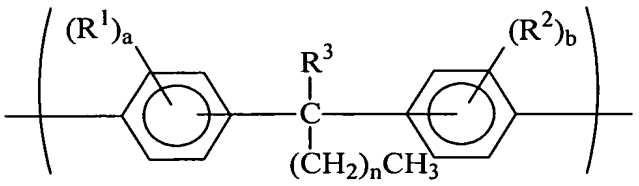
means for charging a surface of said photoconductor,

means for exposing said photoconductor to a light image to form a latent electrostatic image on said photoconductor,

means for developing said latent electrostatic image to a visible image, and

means for transferring said visible image formed on said photoconductor to an image receiving member,

wherein said electrophotographic photoconductor comprises an electroconductive support and a photoconductive layer which is formed on said electroconductive support and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein the resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an

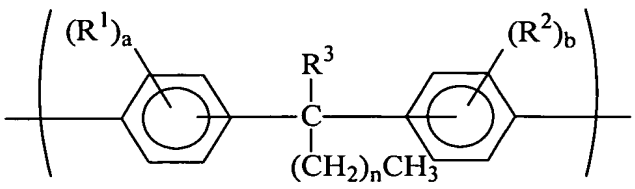
integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

53. (New) The electrophotographic image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said image exposure means employs a light source with a beam spot diameter of 10 to 30 μm.

54. (New) The electrophotographic image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein said light source is a semiconductor laser beam or a light emitting diode with wavelengths of 400 to 450 nm.

55. (New) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

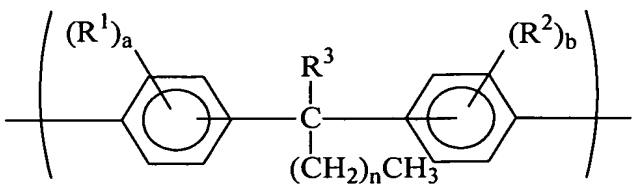
an electrophotographic photoconductor, a charging unit configured to charge a surface of said electrophotographic photoconductor, a light exposure unit configured to expose said charged photoconductor to a light image to form a latent electrostatic image on said photoconductor, a development unit configured to develop said latent electrostatic image to a visible image, and a transferring unit configured to transfer said visible image formed on said photoconductor to an image receiving member, wherein said electrophotographic photoconductor comprises an electroconductive support and a photoconductive layer which is formed on said electroconductive support and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein the resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

56. (New) A process cartridge which is freely attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and detachable therefrom, said process cartridge comprising an electrophotographic photoconductor, and at least one means selected from the group consisting of a charging means for charging a surface of said photoconductor, a light exposure means for exposing said photoconductor to a light image to form a latent electrostatic image on said photoconductor, a development means for developing said latent electrostatic image to a visible image, and an image transfer means for transferring said visible image formed on said photoconductor to an image receiving member, wherein said electrophotographic photoconductor comprises an electroconductive support and a photoconductive layer which is formed on said electroconductive support and comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane resin and a polyester resin, wherein the resin comprises at least a structural unit represented by formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group represented by $-(CH_2)_mCH_3$; a and b are each an integer of 0 to 4, and when a and b are each an integer of 2 to 4, a plurality of groups represented by R^1 or R^2 may be the same or different; and n and m are each an integer of 8 to 27.

57. (New) The process cartridge as claimed in claim 56, wherein said image exposure means employs a light source with a beam spot diameter of 10 to 30 μm.

58. (New) The process cartridge as claimed in claim 57, wherein said light source is a semiconductor laser beam or a light emitting diode with wavelengths of 400 to 450 nm.